

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, March 28, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Army Emergency Relief campaign

The Army Emergency Relief campaign will run through May 31. This non-profit program endeavors to ease financial hardships experienced by Army family members. Ninety-five cents of every dollar donated to AER can be used for such things as food expenses, rent, utilities, travel emergencies, etc. Maj. Clifton Johnston, commander of Headquarters Support Troop is this year's chairman and can be reached at 410-278-2104.

Disability committee presentation

APG Committee for the Disabled is sponsoring the presentation "Life As A Blind Person," by Patricia Maurer, Director of Community Services for the National Federation of the Blind at Top of the Bay on Thursday, March 22, at 2:30 p.m. She will be discussing her life and the work of the NFB. Maurer, who is blind and whose husband is blind, has taught sighted elementary school children and directed a life skills program for blind adults. The presentation is free of charge and open to the entire APG Community.

NAACP seeking nominees for Roy Wilkins award

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is seeking military personnel and DoD civilians as nominees for the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award. This award is for someone who made a significant contribution to his or her country in the area of civil or human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, human resources or public service. Nominees may include supervisory or non-supervisory personnel at any grade or occupational level and any ethnic group. If you are interested in nominating someone else or yourself, call Penny White, equal employment opportunity specialist, 410-278-7074. Nominations must be received by May 21.

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Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Specs. Duc Thach, front, and Todd Thomas, food inspectors with the Aberdeen Proving Ground Veterinary Branch, examine hams from the Post Commissary meat section. Thach was named the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command Soldier of the Year in February. He advances to the U.S. Army Medical Command competition in April at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

MRICD says 'thank you' to USO Commanders praise services of BWI lounge

By Yvonne Johnson

APG News

Four times a year, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (MRICD) offers a course called the Medical Management and Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties.

Training for the course is conducted at the institute's Edgewood Area site and at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (MRIID) at Fort Detrick.

Students enrolled in the six-day course travel to Aberdeen Proving Ground from around the country and overseas by way of Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Consequently, they utilize the services and facilities available at the airport's United Service Organization, better known as the USO International Gateway Lounge.

In a show of gratitude for services rendered to the travelers, senior members of MRICD and MRIID recently visited the USO to render a personal 'thank-

you' to its staff.

MRICD commander Col. James Romano and MRIID deputy commander Lt. Col. George Korch led a contingent of branch chiefs in presenting certificates of appreciation to USO director Adrienne Trout and to Nancy Sites manager of special projects, Maryland Aviation Administration.

"Whether arranging ground transportation, rescheduling flights or just giving people a place to relax for a while, the USO has been a big part of the success of this program," Romano said adding that about 180 students at a time participate in each session of the six-day course.

Korch said the course, for health care and field workers, provides training on basic chemical, biological and disease agents and how to protect against them.

"It's a pretty intense course, taught by world experts on the growing threat of domestic terrorism," Korch said. "The USO provides invaluable support and assistance to those attending."



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

USO volunteer Carlo DePorto, left, chats with USO director Adrienne Trout, center, and members of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and the U.S. Army Medical Institute of Infectious Disease. Trout and members of the Maryland Transportation Authority received certificates of appreciation from MRICD and MRIID for assisting students of the Chemical and Biological Casualty course held in the APG's Edgewood Area and in Fort Detrick, Md. From left, Col. James Romano, MRICD's commander, Lt. Col. George Korch, deputy commander of MRIID, Sgt. 1st Class Richard McCarthy, and Cols. Jonathan Newmark, Theodore Cieslak and Gennady Pratoff.

APG food inspector named NARMC Soldier of the Year

By Yvonne Johnson

APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground soldier who participated in the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command Soldier of the Year competition held at Fort Lee, Va., came away with the top honors.

Spc. Duc Thach, a food inspector at APG's commissary, beat out 11 other competitors from the North Atlantic region at the demanding competition that included trials for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Thach's win garnered him the chance to compete for the U.S. Army Medical Command Soldier of the Year competition to be held at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in April.

Assigned to APG since December 1999, Thach said the three-days of testing demanded all the skills he could muster for a good showing.

"It was incredibly challenging," Thach said. "The competition was top notch. I didn't think I'd be the one standing up there."

Held at Kenner Army Health Clinic, the contest was held in four phases. First, contestants had to successfully perform the standard Army physical fitness test.

The next phase involved a series of hands-on common task testing that included maintaining an M16A1 or M16A2 rifle, reacting to direct and indirect fire, evaluating a casualty, performing first aid to prevent or control shock and navigating from one point on the ground to another while dismounted.

Candidates were required to lead a group of advanced individual soldiers through a series of drill and ceremony commands during the third phase of testing.

The evaluation concluded with oral presentations before a military board that critiqued the soldier's military knowledge, bearing and wear of the Class A uniform.

Thach was recommended by his supervisors, Staff Sgt. Ronnie Washington and Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Stevenson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Aberdeen Veterinary Branch.

Washington said that from the beginning, Thach displayed the "exceptional skills and abilities needed to perform well at that level."

"He was named Soldier of the Quarter for the National Capitol region in November and Soldier of the Year in December," Washington said. "We knew we had a winner after that."

He noted that Thach also received the maximum points allowed before the promotion board.

Stevenson, who conducted mock boards and accumulated training materials for Thach's preparation, noted that the accomplishment carries with it "a great amount of prestige."

"He has already received trophies, plaques, savings bonds and gift certificates," Stevenson said adding that military acknowledgements included two Army Commendation Medals and an Army Achievement

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Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

From the left, Col. Walter E. Egerton, Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic commander, Deb Parker, TRICARE contracting representative, Maj. Gen. Harold L. Timboe, commander, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Rob Clemmons, director, Sierra Military Health Services, join in the ribbon cutting celebration opening the new TRICARE Service Center at KUSAHC.

TRICARE services now offered on post

By Yvonne Johnson

APG News

In an effort to provide easier access to its customers, the TRICARE office, formerly located in the Higher Education and Applied Technology Center on Route 22, recently moved to the third floor of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"The same services that were available there will now be provided here," said Rob Clemmons, director of health services for Sierra Military Health Services.

Clemmons joined KUSAHC commander Col. Walter E. Egerton for a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the third floor foyer.

Egerton thanked the individuals and groups that "worked

together for a smooth transition" noting exceptional contributions of Coast Guard Lt. David K. Smith who served as the lead relocation project officer.

The ceremony's special guest was Maj. Gen. Harold L. Timboe, commander North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Timboe said the KUSAHC relocation effort was in line with recent TRICARE improvements enacted by Congress.

"Some changes effect only certain categories but overall they amount to improvements in a smooth coordinated fashion," Timboe said.

They include the TRICARE

See TRICARE MOVE, page 8

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

USFHP-TRICARE Briefing

The Uniformed Services Family Health Plan at Johns Hopkins, TRI-CARE Prime provider, will present two on-post briefings for military active duty dependents, military retirees, their dependents and survivors on Monday, March 26th, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Ball Conference Center in Dickson Hall, Building 3074. Learn about your choices with TRICARE.

ITR is selling Orioles’ tickets

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is selling Orioles baseball tickets. Call 410-278-4011 or 4612 or stop by building 3326. Patrons can prepay to order tickets using VISA or Mastercard through April 1. All tickets have a \$2 handling fee included in the price that is nonrefundable.

After April 1, tickets should be available in the ITR office.

General Services Administration seminar free for federal and military personnel

GSA 101, a free comprehensive seminar for federal and military personnel interested in learning more about Government Services Administration products and services, is scheduled for May 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel, 700 King Street in Wilmington, Del. Learn to use the on-line shopping and ordering system, GSAAdvantage, and the GSA Schedules E-Library, the on-line source for complete multiple award schedule contract award information. For more information, call Angela Griffin, 215-656-3872. Register on-line at www.midatlantic.gsa.gov/fss/seminars or by e-mail to midatlantic.seminars@gsa.gov.

Volunteers needed

The education centers in both the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas are looking for volunteer receptionists to help with the day-to-day office operations. Some duties include directing phone calls, filing, providing general information to visitors and assisting with special projects.

All of the volunteer hours accumulated, training received and skills acquired are documented and can be used to advantage when filling out future job applications.

Anyone interested in learning more about these positions should contact Dori Lawton, education specialist, at 410-278-3515 or Alice Surette, volunteer coordinator, at 410-278-5469.

Volunteer Connection seeking help

If you are 55 or older, looking for adventure, a chance to meet new people and use your talents and skills while helping the community, Volunteer Connection RSVP needs volunteers. For opportunities such as serving as tour guides, arts and crafts assistants, partners in reading, or helping with community safety, call Sally, Connie or Dale at 410-638-4444, or fax 410-638-3069, or email to rsvp@co.ha.md.us.

Luncheon celebrates Women’s History Month

APG National Women’s History Month Luncheon celebrates women of courage and wisdom on March 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker is Jacqueline Haas, Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools. Tickets are \$8.50 and can be purchased from Sgt. James Davis, 410-278-2529, Sgts. 1st Class Rodney Yelder, 410-278-5598, Mitchelen Bigman, 410-278-7381, Hebert Johnson, 410-278-1053, Shelton Torbert, 410-278-1534 and Cheryl Coleman, 410-306-0713.

Lunchtime Tobacco Cessation Class

Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m., April 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the preventive medicine conference room (Room A-12) at Kirk Army Health Clinic. All military beneficiaries are invited to attend. For more information and to register for the first class, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964. Class size is limited, so call to register.

Evening Tobacco Cessation Class

Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., April 3, 10, 17 and 24 in the Preventive Medicine conference room (Room A-12) at Kirk Army Health Clinic. All TRICARE PRIME beneficiaries are invited to attend. For more information and to register for the first class, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964. Class size is limited, so call to register.

“Healthy Eating” class

Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., April 5, 12, 19 and 26 in the Preventive Medicine conference room (Room A-12) at Kirk Army Health Clinic. All TRICARE beneficiaries with a desire to learn more about healthy eating, parents and sponsors of children with healthy eating concerns, are invited to attend. For more information and to register for the first class, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964.

Diabetes education classes

Classes are scheduled for four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., April 3, 10, 17 and 24 in the Preventive Medicine conference room (Room A-12) at Kirk Army Health Clinic. All TRICARE-enrolled individuals with diabetes or parents or sponsors of a diabetic are invited to attend classes taught by a certified diabetic educator and registered dietician. For more information and to register for the first class, call Preventive Medicine, 410-278-1964.

MCSC has funds for charities, organizations

The Aberdeen Area Military and Civilian Spouses’ Club will donate funds to organizations and charities this spring. Groups interested in placing a request for funds should do so in writing. Requests should include name of organization requesting funds, the manner in which the funds will be used, list of other fund raising efforts, and a contact person for the organization (name, address and telephone number). Requests must be postmarked by April 2. Submit requests to the Military and Civilian Spouses’ Club, P.O. Box 752, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005.

For more information call MCSC at 410-273-9663.

Summer program has openings for first through ninth graders

The Aberdeen and Edgewood School Age and Middle School Services has summer openings for children who are presently enrolled in first through ninth grades. The program, June 19 through Aug. 18, Monday through Friday, 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., offers safe, fun-filled, developmental opportunities for your child, such as swimming, bowling and field trips. You may sign up for the weeks that fit your summer schedule.

Tuition fees are based on total family income and will be determined at the time of registration. Mark your calendar. Spaces are limited. Open registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration packets and appointments will be available at the Central Registration Office, building 2485, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

March 19 to 23 is registration for single military and civilians, dual military and military with a working spouse. March 26 to 30 is registration for civilians with a working spouse. April 2 to 6 is registration for contractors and all other civilians and military personnel.

For questions or further information, call the Central Registration Office at 410-278-7479/7571.

AFAP symposium addresses quality of life

The Army Family Action Plan Symposium XVI, intended to identify quality of life issues, will be held April 10 through 12 at Top of the Bay. Representatives from throughout APG will participate in one of four workgroups. A special youth work group will be meet April 11 to discuss issues that concern youth in the community. If you are interested in being a delegate or would like to find out more about the AFAP process, call Alice Surette, 410-278-5469.

Ambulance transfers for pediatric patients

Children treated at the Harford Memorial Hospital Emergency Room who require hospitalization will be transported to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air. TRICARE beneficiaries may be charged a copayment for the civilian ambulance transfer to Upper Chesapeake Medical Center for pediatric admissions.

However, if your child should require emergency medical services for life threatening conditions such as poisoning, convulsions, high fever and other acute conditions, call 911 or seek care at the nearest civilian hospital emergency room.

KUSAHC Urgent Care Clinic changes hours

The new Urgent Care Clinic hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and training holidays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and holidays. Call Nurse Telephone Triage at 1-410-278-1751 for Urgent Care Clinic appointments. The Nurse Telephone Triage line will be open for calls at 8 a.m. on weekdays and one half hour before the clinic opens on weekends and holidays.

KUSAHC Immunization Clinic changes hours

The new Immunization Clinic hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays 8 to 11:30 a.m. and Preparation for Overseas Replacement (POR) 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wealth-building classes offered by ACS

The Army Community Services is presenting a series of classes starting March 28 to teach how to manage money, live debt-free, and invest for the future at the Army Community Service Center, building 2754 on Rodman Road.

On March 28, Planning and Budgeting, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 4, Banking and Checking, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 11,

Using Credit Wisely, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 18, Savings and Investing, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 25, Retirement Planning, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Classes are free and open to all civilians, active duty personnel, retirees and family members. Space is limited. Call Tricia Jewitt, 410-278-4372 to reserve your seat (bring a lunch).

Microsoft-USO Defenders 10 Mile Run

Microsoft, GEICO, Comprint Military Publications, and QMQZ 98.7, will sponsor the Microsoft-USO Defenders 10-mile Run on Sunday, May 6. The Race will begin at the Pentagon at 8 a.m. Awards totaling \$10,000 will be presented to the top male and female finishers. Participants will be allowed use of the ChampionChip(r), a certified, fast course, pre-race expo at the Sheraton National Hotel and course entertainment.

First place male and female finishers will each receive \$2,400 and special awards will be given to the first place male and female from each branch of service. Individuals and teams are encouraged to participate. Team categories include military (male, female and co-ed), embassies, Corporate Challenge, Open (Male, Female, Co-ed) and Masters (Male, Female).

All proceeds from the race go directly back into USO-Metro programs and services for military personnel and their families. Cost of race registration is \$20 until April 23, and \$25 after April 23.

For more information on the Microsoft-USO Defenders Ten Mile Run, call Beth Bradner, 703-696-3279, or visit www.runwashington.com (online registration available).

Slots available in the RV storage lot

Attention all active duty military residing on Aberdeen Proving Ground in the Aberdeen Area. Avoid getting tickets for parking a boat, camper or small travel trailer in the family housing area. There are several available slots in the AA RV storage lot. The fee is \$12 per month up to 20 feet and 60 cents per foot for anything over 20 feet. Call Outdoor Recreation, 410-278-4124 or 5789.

EA Thrift Shop open

The EA Thrift Shop is open for business in our regular location, building E-1633. Hours of operation are Tues. and Thurs. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The consignment room is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on all of the above days. For information call 410-676-4733.

Purchase request submission schedule set for FY 2001

The following schedule should be used for the submission of purchase requests for fiscal year 2001 and maintenance for fiscal year 2002 for the U.S. Army Robert Morris Acquisition Center.

Noncommercial items over \$100,000 by May 15. There may be instances, though, where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief prior to this date.

Noncommercial items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 by June 15. Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million by June 15. Short-of-Award over \$2,500 by June 15. Commercial items under \$100,000 by Aug. 15. Maintenance for fiscal year 2002 by June 15.

PD2, the new DoD contracting automated system, has been fielded at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood sites. Experience and updates to the system indicate a continued learning curve.

Although the center purchase request submission schedule has been increased to permit additional time to process actions through this new system, you are advised to submit your year-end requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year’s end. Submission of requests after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Refer questions to Joyce Roberts, APG Branch, joyce.roberts@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-278-0869; or Fred Thomas, Edgewood Branch, fred.thomas@sbccom.apgea.army.mil, 410-436-2554.

547th Engineer Battalion Reunion

The 547th Engineer Battalion (Cbt) Association and its attached units (552d and 1328th) will hold its 15th annual reunion from Thursday, Aug. 2 through Sunday, Aug. 5, at the Radisson Governors Inn, Durham, N.C. The Radisson Governors Inn is located on I-40, Exit 280 at Davis Drive, Research Triangle Park.

For reunion pre-registration, call John Joyner, 919-596-7940, 2114 Baltic Ave., Durham, N.C. 27707; or Ursula Allen, 253-582-4649, 9111 Forest Ave. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498.

For hotel reservations, call 919-549-8631 or 1-800-333-3333.

Passport photos taken on Thursdays

The APG Garrison Photo Lab takes passport photos on Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m., on a walk-in basis. For information about photographic services on post, call 410-278-3391.

APG News

The *APG News*, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *APG News* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

STAFF

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Contract Photojournalists	.Yvonne Johnson
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PET OF THE WEEK

Adopt Becky

Don’t delay if you are thinking about adopting a pet. The post Veterinary Treatment Facility can only keep animals for a limited time before they must be euthanized. Cats and dogs make wonderful companions as well as wonderful presents. Treat yourself or a friend to a gift you will love and that will love you in return. Becky is a beautiful domestic medium-hair female with golden eyes, a black coat sprinkled with white hairs and white chest and paws. About eight months old, she has a bouncy attitude and she loves playing with toys. Becky is one of several cats and dogs available for adoption at the VTF. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt a pet. For information, call 410-278-4604 or drop by the VTF in building 2479 next to the Kirk, U.S. Army Health Clinic parking lot.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

A lifetime of returning the favor

‘Army of one’ demonstrates success in the military and volunteer arenas

By Sheila Little
APG News

The military must have been familiar with Aberdeen Proving Ground’s March Volunteer of the Month, Command Sgt. Maj. Godofredo Posadas, when they adopted the ‘Army of one’ slogan a few months ago.

Previously recognized by APG as the Military Volunteer of the Year for 1999 and 2000, the battalion command sergeant major for the 16th Ordnance Battalion plays no favorites when it comes to helping organizations around the installation, and most of the beneficiaries will tell you that he operates like an ‘Army of one.’

“He’s one dedicated and generous guy,” said Spec. Marina Daves, a tool room specialist for the 16th Ordnance Battalion.

Daves has known Posadas for about a year, and said that although he remains accessible to the soldiers he commands, he is also constantly in the midst of helping somewhere on the installation or in the surrounding community. She said he donates his time, funds, and organizational skills to projects, encourages others to get involved, and works side-by-side with just about any organization that helps the community.

“He sets the example by always doing something for a family or an organization with a need on post,” she said.

Posadas is credited with supporting events for the American Red Cross, Harvest for the Hungry, Habitat for Humanity, Roye-Williams Elementary School, the Salvation Army, Junior Reserved Officers Training Corps, APG Morale, Welfare and Recreation, spouse clubs, scout troops, and other organizations, in addition to encouraging soldiers and others to participate in worthwhile endeavors throughout the community.

Daria Avila, account representative for the local branch of the American Red Cross, said Posadas has done a phenomenal job for her organization, holding blood drives on the installation nearly every month. Avila said Posadas is especially good at coming through when blood is in short supply.

“He has true commitment and compassion,” she said.

Avila explained that ordinarily, collecting 100 units during an installation blood drive is considered a success, but sometimes the organization requires more.

“Back in the summer, we experienced a real crisis with the blood supply,” Avila said. Knowing that nearly 40 percent of blood collected in her territory comes from APG, Avila relied on Posadas to get the message across, and was not disappointed.

“In July, we collected 274 units of blood in one drive, a record for the 16th Ordnance Battalion.” Avila said. “When he gets involved in something, it comes



Photo courtesy of COMMAND SGT. MAJ. POSADAS

Command Sgt. Maj. Godfredo Posadas, right, offers assistance to Spec. Reyes of the 16th Ordnance Battalion, as he takes care of some re-wiring in a home re-modeled for Kosovo refugees. Soldier volunteers participated in re-modeling two homes last summer, as a way to make meaningful use of their spare time, hone skills, and help the community.

straight from the heart.”

At the close of World War II, soldiers stationed in the Philippines set an example by donating time and personal supplies to help post-war survivors cope with the lean times and get back on their feet. American-backed organizations brought in much-needed food supplies.

Although Posadas was born after the war, his childhood memories include receiving powdered milk and other supplements to cope with post-war shortages. Giving back to the community is his way of saying thanks.

“I feel like I owe it,” Posadas said.

The volunteer said one of his favorite projects was re-modeling two homes to house refugees from Kosovo. Those working on the project did carpentry, rewiring, moved furniture, planted shrubs and performed other yard work, preparing the homes for families who had lost many of their possessions.

“Project volunteers learned new skills, and the refugees were so appreciative,” he said. “I’ll never forget that.”

More than just a ‘doer,’ Posadas is frequently the organizer and driving force behind fund-raising efforts. Through the organizational skills of Posadas, the local Harvest for the Hungry Run, scheduled for April 21 in Aberdeen, raises awareness and brings in much needed food and funds to the Harford-Cecil Food Bank.

The Rev. Richard McNally, executive director of the Harford-Cecil Food Bank, said Posadas serves as a liaison between the military and surrounding civilian community, raising awareness of what is available at the food bank and providing volunteers and supplies when needed.

Next month’s Harvest for the Hungry Run is expected to bring in 30,000 pounds of food for the community. Posadas is a driving force behind the run each year.

McNally said military community participation adds to the success of the fund-raiser.

“He’s an extremely sensitive and caring individual who is familiar with hunger,” McNally said. “In a very large part that event should be renamed the Command Sgt. Maj. Posadas Run.”

In addition, Posadas has been known to take annual leave in order to help worthwhile efforts in the community. Since his first summer here in 1997, Posadas has used vacation time in order to devote the hours needed to set-up for the summer concert series. Funds raised through the summer concert series, organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, go back into the military community.

Randy Moore, chief of the Community Recreation Division, said Posadas plays a key role in helping set up for concerts.

“He volunteers his time, helping direct troop movement and labor throughout the week leading up to the concert,” Moore said, adding that he assists during and after the concert as well.

In addition, the CRD chief said

Posadas is constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of life at APG.

“He recognized that there really isn’t a lot of social opportunities for permanent party soldiers and NCO’s,” Moore said, “so he arranged to set up a lounge for them at the recreation center.”

In addition, Moore said Posadas is very supportive of sports programs, leisure travel services, and even volunteer activities to keep soldiers involved and productive.

The recipient of numerous awards and presentations from volunteer organizations, APG, and the military Posadas said that despite his upcoming retirement after nearly 27 years of military service, he won’t stop helping his community. The Aberdeen resident, whose older son, Spec. Christian Posadas, is stationed at APG, said he plans to spend more time with his family, which includes son Patrick, a 10-year-old student at Roye-Williams Elementary, and keep on reaching out to others.

“You can make the time to volunteer,” Posadas said. “It’s always worth it.”

APG soldier competes for Soldier of the Year

NARMC, from front page

Medal.

“I think I may have a coin from every sergeant major in the region,” Thach added with a smile.

In addition, Thach and Washington were treated to a dinner with Maj. Gen. Harold L. Timboe, commander of NARMC and Walter Reed Army Medical Center who was in town for the NARMC Regional Commanders Conference at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Aberdeen.

Accompanying Timboe were NARMC Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Clark and Sgt. Maj. George Martinez, Dewitt Army Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Also one to challenge himself in his private life, Thach is enrolled in courses with Harford Community College where he is pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

He also coaches youth basketball for 9 and 10-year olds at the Youth Center in the Aberdeen Area.

Gratified with all the attention his accomplishment has drawn, Thach said he appreciates the self confidence he gained through the rigorous preparation bestowed by his chain of command and thanked them for ensuring he had sufficient time and materials to prepare.

“They sacrificed a lot of their personal time getting me ready for this,” Thach said of Stevenson and Washington. “I couldn’t have done it without them.”

He said he recommends all soldiers test themselves with the boarding process.

“Mock boards are a great learning tool,” Thach said. “It takes a lot of the nervousness out of the actual proceeding.”

“It’s a big plus for your military career and for your unit,” he added. “When the door of opportunity opens, just step through it.”



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Proud soldiers and supervisors from the post Veterinary Branch pose in the Post Commissary with Spc. Duc Thach, second from left, the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command Soldier of the Year. Thach will compete for the U.S. Army Medical Command Soldier of the Year honors in April at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. From left, are his supervisors and co-worker, Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Stevenson, Spc. Todd Thomas and Staff Sgt. Ronnie Washington.

The story of a soldier - a labor of love

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Ivan P. Mehosky, like so many other offspring of career soldiers, grew up on U.S. Army bases around the world. As a child, he loved listening to his father's stories about the wars in Europe, Korea and Vietnam.

Mehosky's interest, however, didn't end with his childhood.

Enthralled by vivid remembrances of conflicts in far away lands as related by his father, Col. (Ret.) Edward S. Mehosky, his interest grew into a passionate regard for the soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines who shared in the fight for world freedom.

His passion eventually manifested itself in the form of a recently published book entitled "The Story of a Soldier, The Airborne Spirit and Recollections of Col. (Ret.) Edward S. Mehosky, U.S. Army Infantry."

An education coordinator and youth development specialist with Army Community Service's Child and Youth Development program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Mehosky said the book is the result of 10 years of research that included visiting battlefields, poring through thousands of documents in the National Archives, and interviewing hundreds of veterans for their perspectives on what are some of the U.S. Army's most chronicled endeavors.

He said he first began planning for the book after visiting Omaha Beach, the site of the Allied invasion of France during World War II.

"I first planned a unit history, but the more I talked with my father the more intrigued I

became," Mehosky said.

He began developing a narrative about his father's career, adding recorded interviews of his father and other veterans on cassette tapes that took more than 5 years to compile.

"My wife marveled at the transformation in my dad during those interviews," Mehosky said. "He would almost become young again."

Never considering himself a writer, Mehosky said he was inspired to continue by a statement from a veteran who told him, "As you honor your father, you honor all of us."

"That was all the impetus I needed," Mehosky said.

Some of the most compelling chapters of Mehosky's book involve his father's tour in the Far East at the height of the Korean conflict.

Then a captain with the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Fort Benning, Ga., Edward Mehosky requested an assignment with the 40th Infantry Division. He arrived in Korea in October 1952 and assumed command of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 160th Regiment, 40th Infantry Division.

"This phase of the Korean War had settled into fighting along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the 38th Parallel, on the ridges and in the valleys," the senior Mehosky relates in his story.

His unit was "currently holding a key ridge in the 40th Division's



Col. (Ret.) Edward S. Mehosky

sector on the 8th Army's line of defense."

Upon his arrival in the Mundung-Ni Valley, where his unit was entrenched, Mehosky said he made some disturbing observations.

"The command post was located directly under enemy observation," he said.

Other potentially perilous situations included poorly constructed bunkers, inconsistent patrols, poor camouflage and concealment and substandard hygiene methods.

Mehosky got to work right away, correcting all that was wrong with the unit.

His changes included the construction of a new command post "out of the enemy's direct observation and fire," the enforcement of strict personal hygiene and winterization techniques to combat infections and illnesses, the

improvement of defensive positions and the establishment of frequent intelligence gathering patrols to ascertain enemy positions and movement.

Under Mehosky's diligent insistence, the unit was transformed into fighting shape.

"The men began anticipating my platoon visits at night," Mehosky said adding that the unit's morale soon rose and his men's commitment to the mission elevated to become more in line to his way of thinking.

"My idea of defense was an active, aggressive defense, making things happen, constantly harassing the enemy, and playing with his mind," Mehosky said.

"We would take the initiative, not sit back. That wasn't my style. Nothing was overlooked, everything was checked and everything was rehearsed. The men not only

began to look sharp, they acted sharp, with confidence. They were doing things the smart way, the right way. Morale was up. We became a well-knit fighting team."

A major at the war's end, Edward Mehosky was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service, in part for 'the creation of a highly efficient combat team.'

Part of the recommendation for his award reads, "Major Mehosky overcame logistical problems imposed upon his unit by its location on a high and steep hill under direct enemy observation. Thinking constantly of the welfare of his men, Major Mehosky through his imagination and initiative established shower and recreational facilities within range but thoroughly secure from enemy fire. These facilities continued operations in spite of the winter and adverse conditions which paralyzed similar facilities in reserve areas. This alone was an important factor contributing to the continued high morale of Major Mehosky's unit."

One of the many courageous

paratroopers who landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944, Edward Mehosky served valiantly in Korea and as an advisor to the 21st Infantry Division in Vietnam. He retired with the rank of colonel in 1971.

Col. (Ret.) Edward S. Mehosky lives in St. Leonard, Md. with his wife, Yvonne. They have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ivan Mehosky lives in North East, Md. with his wife, Charlotte. Their son Michael, 29 and daughter Karen, 27, are managers with MBNA.

A cancer survivor, Mehosky said his faith is strengthened by this "second chance" and the opportunity to honor his personal hero.

"Having cancer changes you. It gives you a new view of life and the joys of family and dear friends," Mehosky said. "It made my mission of writing my father's story that much more meaningful to me."

"The Story of a Soldier" is published by Rutledge Books, Inc. To find out where it is available, contact the author's Hotline at 1-800-278-8533 or on the web at www.info@rutledgebooks.com.



Photo courtesy of IVAN MEHOSKY
Ivan Mehosky, right, the author of "The Story of a Soldier" stands with his father, Col. (Ret.) Edward S. Mehosky in the garden of his home in North East. Col. Mehosky's stories about the wars in Europe, Korea and Vietnam sparked his son's desire to chronicle the story of his father and others who shared in the fight for world freedom.

Korea - 50 years ago

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

Fifty years ago this week, a motorized patrol of the 7th Marines was the first U.S. IX Corps unit into Hongchon in central South Korea on March 15, as Operation Ripper continued.

Of the corps' divisions advancing toward Hongchon, only the 1st Marines ran into stiff enemy resistance, which stopped them in the hills east of the city. Other units received long-range small arms fire from the enemy.

Hongchon was nearly destroyed from U.S. bombing and the battles that raged in and around the city. By nightfall on March 15, the IX Corps, with the exception of the 1st Marines, was in place below and around the Chongpyong Reservoir west of Hongchon.

March 15, 1951 - In Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1st Division soldiers continue searching Hongchon for pockets of enemy troops. Its patrols had discovered the city abandoned by the communists the day before. They find soldiers who had deserted from enemy units hiding out in the city. Patrols around the city search for communist troops, but only a South Korean unit slightly north-west of Seoul draws enemy small arms fire.

Aerial observers also search for the vanished enemy. They sight defensive positions being thrown up on Route 3, halfway between Seoul and Uijongbu. Lt. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, Eighth Army commander, tells Maj. Gen. Frank Milburn, I Corps commander, to establish positions on the high ground above Seoul. Milburn calls the line Lincoln. It begins two miles northwest of the city and runs northeast where it connects with line Buffalo, held on the west end by the 25th Infantry Division. Ridgway also tells all corps commanders to hold in place. Bridges are built across the Han River to enter the capital city. Seoul has been devastated. It will take two months just to get the power and water systems to the point where they can provide electricity and

water. It will take much longer to repair the power grid and water system.

The 200,000 South Koreans who remained in the city lack adequate food and water. Bad news about Seoul's devastation doesn't keep refugees from returning to the city. A campaign using radio, newspapers and civilian police to warn former citizens about re-entering Seoul is not successful. This time there are no ceremonies returning the capital to South Korean leaders. They will remain at the temporary capital at Pusan until Seoul is rebuilt enough for them to return.

March 17 - Gen. Douglas MacArthur limits a visit to Korea to an inspection of the 1st Marines, which has now taken up positions around Hongchon.

IX Corps renews its advance. Its goal is to reach lines Buster and Buffalo. The IX Corps divisions are, from west to east, the 24th Infantry Division, the 1st Air Cavalry Division, the ROK 6th and the 1st Marines. The 1st Cavalry immediately runs into a vicious fight with Chinese troops in the hills above Hongchon River. The clash consists of attacks and counterattacks. But the enemy disappears the next day in face of the four-division advance. U.S. and ROK MPs raid black market warehouses and seize 10 truck-loads of stolen U.S. Army supplies.

March 19 - A patrol from a battalion of the ROK 6th Division, scouting the behind the division discovers a Chinese battalion gathering in a small valley three miles north of the Hongchon River. The patrol notifies the battalion, which surrounds the Chinese on three sides, and attacks. The South Koreans kill 231 Chinese. They capture two, along with a lot of weapons and other supplies. No ROK soldier is even injured in the fight.

IX Corps is on line Buffalo, but immediately moves six miles north to a new line, Cairo. From there, the 1st Cav is expected to take Chunchon, a suspected communist supply depot. The South

Korean government announces that it is temporarily ending conscription and will send 200,000 men home because it doesn't have enough military training facilities.

Canada's House of Commons votes to send \$7.4 million to Korean relief and rehabilitation.

March 21 - U.S. I Corps moves to line Cairo, which has been extended southwest across the U.N. front to the Han River west of Seoul. From there, I Corps will attack the North Korean People's Army I Corps around Uijonbu.

An armored task force from the 7th Marine Regiment enters Chunchon in the early afternoon. It is empty of enemy troops and supplies. Ridgway had planned to kill enemy troops leaving Chunchon by having the 187th Airborne Regiment Combat Team, along with the 2nd and 4th Ranger companies jump into positions north of the town. Since no enemy is around, he calls off the jump.

With the taking of Chunchon, all terrain objectives of Operation Ripper have been met, but not the goal of killing large numbers of enemy troops. In addition, the NKPA 10th Division, still trapped in the ROK east coast sector, still has not been wiped out. Battered and with hundreds of losses, it still eludes the South Koreans in the Taebaek hills, despite pressure from Ridgway.

By March 21, the division, down to less than 1,000 men, breaks into small groups to try to slip through ROK lines back to North Korea.

Ridgway, fully aware that communist troops have escaped, plans another move to catch them - Operation Courageous. Patrols and intelligence officials have concentrated on the Chinese 26th Army and the NKPA I Corps. The two enemy forces join at Uijongbu, with the Chinese troops on a line to the west and the North Koreans to the east.

Intelligence officers believe that the three divisions of the enemy I Corps are vulnerable. If they are attacked and forced to withdraw, their only route is

across the Imjin River at the town of Munsan-ni.

Ridgway plans Operation Courageous, an enlargement of Ripper, to take advantage of that vulnerability. Once again, he wants to use the 187th Airborne as a blocking force. The paratroops will jump into the area around Munsan-ni during the early morning darkness on March 23. Good weather is crucial to the air assault named Operation Tomahawk.

The Defense Department reports that America's armed forces total 2.9 million men and women. On March 18, British intelligence reports say that the Soviet Union and China each have four-million-man militaries. The Soviet army stands at 2.8 million men and China's is at 2.5 million men. The rest of the manpower is in the air forces, navies and secret police.



Photo of Korean war tank M4A3 maneuvering on a South Korean road exerpsted from Army Historical Series American Military History.

TRICARE Prime eliminates co-payments for family members

The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act contains great news for active duty uniformed services members and their families. One provision that is sure to please is the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members (ADFM) enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers.

Currently, family members of active duty members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 and pay grades E-5 and

above pay \$6 and \$12, respectively, for such visits. In addition, family members' \$11 per day civilian inpatient charge is being eliminated, as is the \$11.45 per day family member rate for enrollees admitted to a military treatment facility. It is anticipated that this benefit will become available in April 2001.

Legislation included in the 2001 NDAA, such as the elimination of co-payments, is giving recruiters something to cheer about. As an employee benefit, TRICARE is quickly becoming what military leaders hoped it

would: The world's best health care for the world's best military. Active duty family members will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy program and at network retail stores, but these charges are nominal. In addition, military treatment facilities continue to provide prescription drugs free of charge — a huge cost saving available to all uniformed services beneficiaries.

In order to obtain the elimination of co-payments for care received from their civilian providers TRICARE Prime

enrollees must follow TRICARE Prime rules. For example, TRICARE Prime enrollees must normally obtain authorization from their primary care manager before seeking care from civilian providers.

While they retain the right to seek civilian care without authorization from their primary care manager, the TRICARE Prime point-of-service charges will apply.

Family members who use the point-of-service option are responsible for paying the annual deductible of \$300 per member or \$600 per family, and 50 percent of the TRICARE allowable charge once the deductible is met.

Family members also are responsible for any additional charges billed by the non-network provider, up to 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge (balance billing rule).

Members are encouraged to consult with a health benefits adviser (HBA) or beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator prior to using the point-of-service option.

The elimination of co-payments for active duty family members who see civilian providers is not only about cost. It's also about making the TRICARE benefit equal for those who see civilian versus military providers.

In response to feedback from beneficiaries, TRICARE Prime is being re-designed to take the irritants out of the program.

Cost is a big concern for beneficiaries, and the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members enrolled in Prime is a plus for customer satisfaction.

Visit the TRICARE web site, www.tricare.osd.mil, for directories of service centers and on-line providers, claims forms, and a beneficiary discussion forum.

Soldiers will elect retirement pay plan

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Swauger

Adjutant Office

While awaiting the final implentation guidance, major Army commands are readying their installations to begin identifying soldiers who initially entered the military service on or after August 1, 1986, to notify them of their eligibility or ineligibility for the Career Status Bonus/Military Retirement Reform Act Retired Pay Option (commonly known as CBS/REDUX).

The Military Personnel Division, will provide instructions prior to implementation.

Soldiers who initially entered the military service on or after August 1, 1986, must elect their retired pay plan between their 14-1/2 and 15th year of service. Soldiers in this category will be given the option of electing to be covered by the High-3 retired pay plan or choose the CBS/REDUX plan and receive a \$30,000 bonus.

The Date Initially Entered Military Service, known as DIEMS date, is the earliest date of enlistment, induction, or appointment in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service as a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted member.

This date determines which year group a soldier qualifies for retirement, but it is not used in the retired pay calculation. It may be earlier than the Basic Pay Entry Date. Situations where the dates will differ include academy graduates, ROTC servicemembers, Delayed Entry Program, Delayed Commissioning Program or direct commissions.

For academy graduates the DIEMS date is the date the soldier entered the academy. Use the date of the signature on the academy transcript, or four years before the date of the regular Army commission, whichever is earlier. If a soldier had earlier enlisted or reserve service, the DIEMS date would be the date that service began.

For ROTC the DIEMS date is the date the soldier began an ROTC scholarship program or enlisted as a reserve member in the senior ROTC program, whichever is earlier. If a soldier had earlier enlisted or reserve service, the DIEMS would be the date that service began. Use the date of signature on DA Form 597, DD Form 4, or date of the advanced course as shown on DA Form 61, whichever is earlier.

If the soldier had a break in service, the DIEMS date is the date the soldier initially became a member of an uniformed service, any branch or component.

For soldiers who came in through delayed entry, the DIEMS date is the date the soldier signed up for the program, not the date the soldier came on active duty. Use the date of signature on DD Form 4.

For soldiers entering with a direct commission or using the Delayed Commissioning Program, use the date of signature on DA Form 71. If a soldier had earlier enlisted or reserve service, the DIEMS date would be the date that service began.

Soldiers can check their date of initial entry into military service with their unit's administration section or personnel administration center. The date should also appear on the March leave and earnings statement.

Soldiers who believe their DIEMS date is incorrect should contact their unit administration section to schedule an appointment with the Military Personnel Division for correction. Units have a list of source documents a soldier will need to bring to their appointment for verification purposes.

Detailed information about the retired pay choices is available at the Army Retirement Services homepage at www.odcsper.army.mil/retire or the Defense Department Military Pay web site at <http://PAY2000.DTIC.MIL>. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Robert Swauger, 410-306-2313.

Ordnance Corps Association seeks new members

By E. C. Starnes
OC&S

It's about spirit. It's about a proud heritage. It's about brotherhood and loyalty. It's about being a member of the United States Army Ordnance Corps. And, it's about wanting you.

The Ordnance Corps has a history of service to the Nation that dates back to 1814. And it is this heritage that is at the heart of the Ordnance Corps Association. Thousands of Ordnance Corps soldiers and civilians are stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, working not only at the Ordnance Center and Schools, but also throughout many of the other tenant headquarters and units on post.

The Ordnance Corps Association, headquartered in Simpson Hall, Building 3071, offers many reasons to be a member. One of the most visible projects of the Ordnance Corps Association can be seen in the Ordnance Museum. The most popular is the Association Gift Shop where tens of thousands of visitors each year have an opportunity to take home a souvenir, whether it is a tee shirt, an historical model, or a book on the developments of armored warfare. And, at the same time, gift shop profits and the Association's "Ordnance Bomb" donation box provide funding for the maintenance and acquisition projects for the Museum.

In addition to working to remember the Corps' heritage, the Ordnance Corps Association also provides programs to salute today's Ordnance Corps soldiers and civilians, as well as its future leaders.

The Lt. Gen. Levin Hicks Campbell Jr. Distinguished Award of Merit is presented to members of the Corps and others who, through meritorious achievements or acts, distinguish themselves and bring great credit upon the Ordnance Corps. Nominations can be made by sending a letter or memo to the association outlining the individual or organization's significant contributions to the Ordnance Corps.

The Col. Decius Wadsworth Distinguished Award of Scholarship is presented to the outstanding graduates of all classes (enlisted, NCO, warrant officer, and officer) at the Ordnance Center and Schools at APG, and the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Additionally, each distinguished graduate from an Ordnance Advanced Individual Training class from all Ordnance Corps training sites receives an Ordnance Corps hat. The distinguished graduate from the Ordnance Basic Course and the Warrant Officer Basic Course receives a one-year free membership in the Association.

The Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Joseph M. Heiser, Jr. Scholarship Fund provides an opportunity for members of the association and their family members to apply for annual monetary scholarships to be used in the pursuit of higher education. Each year several scholarships are awarded.

The Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe presents the The Samuel Sharpe Medal to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps with selflessness and contributed to the promotion of the Ordnance Corps in ways that stand out in the eyes of their seniors, subordinates and peers alike. Nomination forms for the award are available on the association's web page at www.ordnancecorpsassoc.com. Any member of the Ordnance Corps may nominate an individual. An Army Ordnance Corps colonel or general officer may approve the award. If there is no colonel or general officer available, the form can be sent to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools for approval.

The Ordnance Corps

Association also presents a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to the Noncommissioned Officer, Drill Sergeant, Instructor and Soldier of the Quarter, and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond to the Noncommissioned Officer, Drill Sergeant, Instructor and Soldier of the Year.

The association also sponsors a series of historical prints commemorating the Ordnance Corps. Currently the Association is selling limited edition prints by noted artist Don Stivers recalling the actions of the Ordnance Corps in the Mexican War. An earlier print by Stivers, which is sold out, depicted Ordnance Corps support during the Civil War.

The association also provides financial assistance to programs that honor and recognize special achievement in support of the Ordnance Corps and the Army, and celebrations of Ordnance Corps heritage.

As a member of the Ordnance Corps Association you receive the quarterly Ordnance Magazine, which covers all aspects of Ordnance Corps events, trends and developments.

Membership also qualifies for application for annual scholarship grants.

A membership roster, published every year, permits members of the Ordnance Corps to keep in touch with fellow members throughout the world. Members also receive discounts on orders through the Ordnance Corps Gift Catalog, and each member receives a membership card as physical evidence of his or her support of the Ordnance Corps.

Membership is open to all friends of the Ordnance Corps, with both individual and corporate memberships available. How can you join? Pick up a membership form at the Ordnance Museum or at the association's office in Building 3071. Or you can get a membership application and more information about the Association from the web page at www.ordnancecorpsassoc.com, or call 410-272-8540, or write to Ordnance Corps Association, P.O. Box 377, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-0377.

OBC class proves to be "dooahs"



Photo by E. C. STARNES
2nd Lt. Damon McAndrew presents a check for \$500 to Jo Pericles, Children's Program director for Anna's House on behalf of Ordnance Officer Basic Course Class 01-01 as a continuation of their support for Anna's House, a shelter for battered women and their children.

By E. C. Starnes
OC&S

The members of Ordnance Officer Basic Course Class 01-01 listened respectfully as Brig. Gen. Jeannette K. Edmunds, commander of the 13th Corps Support Command Fort Hood, Texas, spoke at their graduation.

She said that that while the spirit emphasized by "hooah" was important, it was more important to be "dooahs."

It was a statement they knew a lot about. During their 5-month stay at Aberdeen Proving Ground they volunteered more than 150 hours of their time at Anna's House, a shelter for battered women and their children.

During their visits the students interacted with the 16 children residing at the shelter while the mothers attended parenting and self-improvement classes.

During the five months they assisted the residents and counselors at the shelter, the students served as role models for the young children.

And, at their graduation, they did a little more.

2nd Lt. Damon McAndrews, the community service point of contact for the class, presented

See OBC CLASS, page 8

Public comment period open, public meeting scheduled

Proposed plan for groundwater at J-Field area

The U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground is seeking public comment on a proposed plan for groundwater at APG's J-Field area. The 45-day comment period ends April 23.

APG is proposing access and use restrictions, expansion of an existing phytoremediation project, closure of several wells drilled into the lower aquifer, continued groundwater sampling, and monitoring of the natural biodegradation process. The phytoremediation project involves the use of specially-bred trees to clean up the groundwater.

Citizens can request a fact sheet on the proposed plan by calling APG's Environmental Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

There will be a public meeting for interested citizens to ask questions or make comments on Tuesday, March 22, at the Chestertown Middle School, 402 East Campus Avenue, Chestertown, Md. There will be poster/information session from 4 to 5 p.m. and again from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Written comments must be postmarked by April 23 and can be sent to Mr. Ken Stachiw, Directorate of Safety, Health, and Environment, ATTN: AMSSB-GSH-ER, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, 21010; or Mr. Steve Hirsh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1650 Arch Street (3HS13), Philadelphia, PA, 19103; or, Mr. John Fairbank, Maryland Department of the Environment, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD, 21224.

The J-Field area is located at the southern tip of APG's Edgewood Area peninsula. The Army has used the J-Field area for the testing and disposal of high-explosive and chemical munitions. J-Field has had only limited use since 1980. The Army occasionally uses the Robbins Point Demolition Area and the White Phosphorous Pits for the destruction of explosive items. The Army conducts these activities under permits and in accordance with applicable regulations.

“Over the past 10 years, we completed extensive environmental studies at J-Field to determine the impact from historic activities,” said John Wrobel, APG's project manager. “These studies determined the impacts were limited to areas of soil and groundwater near the former burn pits.”

In 1996, APG and the Environmental Protection Agency signed an agreement outlining planned actions for the removal of soil, construction of a protective soil blanket, and implementation of protective measures to reduce shoreline erosion in this area.

“For the past several years, we have examined various technologies to find an effective way to clean up the groundwater,” said Wrobel. “Unfortunately, no current technology would effectively clean up the groundwater to meet federal standards. Working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, we developed an alternate remedial strategy which takes advantage of the natural degradation process already occurring, plus the innovative use of trees, and continues to monitor the area to ensure human health and the environment are not impacted. We also will aggressively look for new technologies that might be developed in the future and be effective at this site.”

According to Wrobel, the cost of the proposed action is \$1.7 million.

The Army may modify its preferred alternative, or select a new alternative, based on public comments.

Community members can review copies of the proposed plan and other reports for the J-Field Study Area at the Joppa and Aberdeen branches of the Harford County Public Library and Miller Library at Washington College in Kent County. Copies of the proposed plan are also at the Edgewood and Cecilton libraries.

Information also is available through the Internet at www.apg.army.mil.

Class donates time, money to shelter

OBC CLASS, from page 7

Jo Pericles, the shelter's Children's Program coordinator, with a check for \$500. Normally, the students in each OBC class collect money toward purchasing a historical print to donate to the Chief of Ordnance and the Ordnance Center and School. The members of Class 01-01 felt that they would rather donate to Anna's House so the shelter could continue to offer quality support to families in need.

According to a representative of the Ordnance Center and Schools' Command and Staff Department, “While all of the members of Class 01-2001 volunteered some time for this community project, a select few exemplified the Army value of selfless service by contributing an extraordinary amount of free time.”

Those students were 2nd Lts. Edwin Berrios, Nikki M. Blystone, Kristina A. Fonde, Linda A. Johnson, and Daniel H. Martin.

Pericles addressed the class, thanking them for their support.

“Thank you so much,” she said. “Anything I asked them to do, they did. They didn't mind doing anything.”

During their hours at Anna's House, the students did a wide variety of support activities to include assisting with the children's weekly arts and crafts sessions, taking trash to the community landfill, delivering a washer and dryer to the shelter, running donations to Good Will, and even taking part in a snowball fight with the children. Also, the students helped to host a Christmas party for the children and assisted the children in buying presents for their mothers.

Many of the students cited the “interaction with the children” and “making a positive impression” as the common reasons they contributed their time.

TRICARE Service Center opens

TRICARE MOVE , from front page

Senior Pharmacy Program, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program and the elimination of co-payments for TRICARE Prime active-duty service members.

“In October, we also look forward to the TRICARE for Life

Program,” Timboe said. “This is a program in which TRICARE pays deductibles any time you have to use a civilian provider.”

He added that ideas concerning streamlining the claims and appointment system also have been addressed or are underway.

“Eventually, we'd like to move to the web,” he concluded, adding

“lots of changes may be confusing, but people have a right to the best system possible as soon as possible.”

Retirees should attend the TRICARE briefing at the Post Theater March 27 at 9 a.m. to learn more about newly-approved benefits.

Community Notes

FRIDAY MARCH 23 BENEFIT MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries will present a Musical Extravaganza, 7 p.m., at Edgewood High School auditorium, Edgewood, Md. The extravaganza includes guest instrumental musicians, New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries musicians, Voices of Destiny Ensemble, Combined Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Singing Evangelists and a praise and worship team. Cost of admittance is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 8-12 years of age and \$5 for children 12 and under. The fundraiser benefits the New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries’ building fund.

LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Football Program will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo, 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. Cost is \$10 per ticket (three cards), and \$5 for additional sets of three cards. For tickets, call Pat Guary, 410-272-4445, or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332. Proceeds benefit the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation football program.

SATURDAY MARCH 24 BASKET BINGO

The Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will hold Longaberger Basket Bingo at the VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket (3 paper cards); extra cards are available at \$5 per set. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. The fundraiser benefits the Water Witch Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. For tickets, call Brenda Conjour, at 410-273-7332.

MECHANICAL MOZART

The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra will perform 8 p.m. at John Carroll High School, Bel Air. The Orchestra’s percussion section will have a twist - members will be playing large wrenches from a tank maintenance shop at APG as musical instruments. Performances include Exsultate Jubilate, K. 165 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Symphony No. 11 “The Year of 1905,” Op. 103 by Dmitri Shostakovich. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$12 at the door; \$8 for senior adults, \$10 at the door; and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at Preston’s Stationery, 410-838-5858, Musicland, 410-838-2079, or Music and Arts Center, 410-569-3500.

SUNDAY MARCH 25 SHRIMP AND BULL ROAST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Aberdeen Memorial VFW Post 10028, 821 Old Philadelphia Road (behind Wal-Mart) is sponsoring a shrimp and bull roast. The menu consists of steamed shrimp, pit beef, Chesapeake chicken, Italian sausage w/peppers, a side-dish buffet offering a wide variety of salads and vegetables, plus draft beer and soda. Food will be served 1 to 5 p.m. DJ music will be 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$23 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call 410-272-1218 or 410-569-0127 for more information.

WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church of 615-617 Green Street in Havre de Grace invites you to help celebrate their 93rd Annual Women's Day Program on March 25. Rev. Charlene Boone, Chattanooga, Tenn., will preach at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The 4 p.m service, “A Salute to Women,” will feature the Aberdeen Gospel Choir.

TUESDAY March 27

PANCAKE SUPPER

The Aberdeen Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Supper from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Aberdeen High School North Building cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 in advance from any club member and \$5.50 at the door. Children 3 and under are free. The Aberdeen Lioness Club will also hold a bake sale in the lobby. For tickets or information, call 410-676-8574.

LADIES’ GOLF ASSOCIATION TO BEGIN SEASON

The Edgewood Ladies’ Golf Association (nine holes) will hold a welcoming coffee at 10:00 a.m. at the Exton Golf Course in the Edgewood Area. Thereafter, play will be from the first Tuesday of April through October.

All ladies are welcome but must be able to shoot less than 80 for nine holes to be eligible for membership.

For more information, call Connie Richardson, 410-676-0179 or e-mail at car0992@home.com.

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN \$1.50

THE WEDDING PLANNER Friday, March 23, 7 p.m.

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey

A busy wedding planner realizes that she spends so much time organizing other people's romances by way of their weddings, that she doesn't spend the time to think about her own love life. And then there's this guy, this really great guy, and he's engaged to one of the brides she's helping. (Rated PG-13)

FINDING FORRESTER Saturday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Starring: Sean Connery, Robert Brown

Known as the neighborhood recluse, silver-haired Forester is a man whose mystery and eccentricity border on the mythical. When Jamal leaves behind his backpack full of writings, together they learn that family isn't always what you're born with — sometimes it's the people you find, sometimes it's the people who find you. (Rated PG-13)

THE GIFT (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, March 24, 9 p.m.

Starring: Cate Blanchert, Katie Holmes

Annie is a recently widowed mother of three boys and bears the gift of psychic vision. She struggles to support her family by giving psychic readings. Soon her visions begin to unravel the town's dark secrets, and she finds herself in increasing danger as the drowned body of a woman is found. Her “gift” becomes her only hope to save herself and her family. (Rated R)

FRIDAY MARCH 30 MORE BASKET BINGO

The Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers Street, will hold a Longaberger Basket bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 (3 paper cards); extra cards are available at \$5 per set. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. To purchase tickets, call Nicki Leonetti, 410-272-8275 or Brenda Conjour, 410-273-7332. The fundraiser benefits the Aberdeen High School Junior and Senior Prom.

SATURDAY APRIL 7th SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Roye - Williams Elementary will hold a Spring Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be lots of crafters, food and fun.

SUNDAY

APRIL 15 EASTER BUNNY TO APPEAR AT EASTER BRUNCH

The post's Sunday brunch series continues with Easter Brunch slated for April 15. The first seating will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the second seating is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The late seating fills first, so make your reservations early.

The menu will include an omelet station, French toast, waffles, sausage, bacon, creamed beef with biscuits, home fries, grits, Danish, muffins, cereal, carved top round of beef and smoked ham, seafood creole, roast leg of lamb with peaches and mint jelly, pasta, potatoes and rice, vegetables, desserts, and beverages, including champagne and bloody Marys.

LENT AND EASTER 2001 CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

Aberdeen Area Chapel - Catholic

March 28 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
April 4 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
April 11 Ecumenical Tenebrae 7 p.m.
April 8 Palm Sunday mass 8:30 a.m.
April 12 Holy Thursday mass 11:45 a.m.
April 13 Good Friday service 11:45 a.m.
April 15 Easter Sunday mass 8:30 a.m.

Aberdeen Area Chapel - Protestant

March 22 Christian study 6 to 6:45 p.m.
March 29 Christian study 6 to 6:45 p.m.
April 5 Christian study 6 to 6:45 p.m.
April 12 Seder supper 6 p.m.
April 12 Easter Cantata 10:15 a.m.
April 13 Community Good Friday 12 to 2 p.m. service (Grace United Methodist Church Downtown)
April 15 Sunrise service at EA's McBride Field 7 a.m.

Edgewood Area Chapel Catholic

March 22 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
March 29 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
April 5 Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
April 10 Ecumenical Tenebrae service 7 p.m.
April 12 Holy Thursday mass 7 p.m.
April 13 Good Friday service 7 p.m.
April 14 Easter vigil 8 p.m.
April 15 Easter Sunday mass 10:45 a.m.

Edgewood Area Chapel - Protestant

April 13 Good Friday service 5 p.m.
April 15 Easter sunrise service 7 a.m. (McBride Field)
April 15 Reception 8 a.m.
April 15 Easter worship service 9:15 a.m.
April 15 Easter Bible study 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Edgewood Area Chapel, 410-436-4109, or the Aberdeen Area chapel, 410-278-4333.

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Garrison Library has fiction books by and about women for your reading pleasure. Visit either the Aberdeen Area Library or the Edgewood Area Branch Library and check out some good books.

@expectations by Kit Reed

Authorized Personnel Only by Barbara D'Amato

Blood Lure by Nevada Barr

The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan

Claws and Effect: A Mrs. Murphy Mystery by Rita Mae Brown

The Fourth Angel by Suzanne Chazin

The Fresco by Sheri S. Tepper

Grasshopper by Barbara Vine

Kinship Theory by Hester Kaplan

Sarah's Child by Linda Howard

The Aberdeen Area Library is located at building 3320 on Austin Road. Temporary operating hours are Monday through Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday and Sunday open from 1 to 5 p.m.

For information call 410-278-3417.

The Edgewood Area Library is located at building E-4405 on Austin Road. Temporary operating hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday closed, Sunday open from 1 to 5 p.m.

For information call 410-436-3589.

OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement of building 3071. Hours are Monday and Thursday, 12 to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 to 7 p.m., and Friday, 12 to 4 p.m.

The Easter Bunny will give baskets to children. Cost is \$13.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children under age 6. Price does not include gratuity. Make reservations by April 12. Advance payment with a major credit card will be accepted. For reservations, call 410-278-3062/2552.

FRIDAY APRIL 20 LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO

The Bakersfield Elementary School Parent Teachers Organization will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo, 7 p.m. at the Aberdeen Fire Hall, Rogers St., Aberdeen. Doors open at 6 p.m.; food, drinks, and baked goods will be available. Cost is \$10 per ticket (three cards), and \$5 for additional sets of three cards. For tickets, call Sandy Pierce at 410-273-7184. Proceeds benefit the Bakersfield Elementary School PTO.

SATURDAY APRIL 28 BASKET BINGO

Aberdeen High School, Paradise Road (South Building), will hold Longaberger Basket bingo at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per ticket (3 paper cards); extra cards are available at \$5 per set. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be food, drinks and baked goods available. The fundraiser benefits the Aberdeen High School Lacrosse team. To purchase tickets, call Brenda Griffey, 410-272-5228, or Vicki Simpson, 410-272-6935.

MWR UPDATE

Edgewood Arts & Crafts is a Morale, Welfare Recreation facility and is open to active and retired military, civilians, and contractors working on Aberdeen Proving Ground and their dependents. We are located in building E-4440 next to the military police station near the troop store. Our hours of operation are Thursday, 1 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 410-436-2153 during listed hours.

Woodshop Orientation

The woodshop will hold a safety orientation April 7 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is the \$3 user fee. This class is required in order to use the woodshop.

Ceramic Class

A basic ceramic class will be held April 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This class teaches the basics of mold pouring, glazing, and painting. Cost is \$7 plus supplies.

Porcelain Dolls

A porcelain doll class will be held on Fridays for three weeks April 6, 13 and 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 plus supplies. Class participants will make a Sugar Britches doll, a great gift for friends or family. Class size is limited and pre registration is required.

Stained Glass

A beginning stained glass class will be held April 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students will make a simple suncatcher using the copper foil method. Cost is \$25 and includes supplies.

Framing Class

A beginning matting and framing class will be held April 26 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Students must bring an 8 inch by 10 inch picture to class to frame and register in advance, because class size is limited. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

LEAVE DONATION

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

Jodie A. Ables (herniated disc)	surgery)
Ameneh M. Arasten (maternity)	Angela R. Little (neck and shoulder injury)
Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)	Rebecca G. Mercer-Leto (heart attack)
Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)	Stacy Miller (maternity)
Barbara Boyd (mother is ill)	Mary V. Overstreet (twisted and sprained wrists and legs)
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant)	Cecil Pennington (surgery)
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema)	Debi L. Petosky (back surgery)
Tammy Budkey	Mary E. Pettitway
Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery)	Barbara Carol Remines (surgery)
Tracy H Coliano-Hirsch (maternity)	Michael Reynolds
Geraldine S. Cragg	Boyd J. Richards (care of mother)
Bonnie K. Day (surgery)	Denise Robinson (maternity)
Tricia Lin Dietz	Ricky Ross (heart attack)
Fred Dill	Tami C. Rowland (maternity)
Surinder K. Dillon	Allan Scarborough (back surgery)
Joseph R. Dugan	Ralph A. Scutti (care of daughter)
Messina Enderlein	Sherry Schaffer
Wayne Erb (wife is ill)	Lena Shelton
Willa Freisheim	Gail H. Smith (death of husband)
Penelope K. Galoff (maternity)	Motoko Stahl
Norman L. Greear	Rachel Swearingen
Rose M. Hill (vertigo)	Ronald L. Taylor (chronic pulmonary disease)
Michael L. Hitchcock (surgery)	Frances L. Thomas
Melanie A. Hoffman (parasitosis, fibromyalgia condition)	Rosalind Walters Kenion (maternity)
Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant)	Cecelia Walton (respiratory problems)
Wayne A. Jaynes	Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)
Evelyn K. Johnson (surgery)	Amber M. Vanakin (care of husband)
Carole Jones	Andrew M. Vaught (brain tumor removed)
Marlin Julian (heart surgery)	Josephine O. Wojciechowski (care for elderly parents)
Jennifer Keetley (maternity)	
Beverly King (caring for husband)	
William Klein	
Michael A. Lattin (heart surgery)	
Yvonne Lissimore (knee	

For information about donating annual leave, call Dave Mial at 410-278-1524 or fax 410-278-7877.

From maintenance shop to orchestra pit



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Nick Podgurski, a junior at C. Milton Wright High School and a percussionist with the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra, rehearses for the orchestra's weekend performance. Wrenches borrowed from a tank maintenance shop at APG are featured as a part of one of the concert selections. The performance takes place at 8 p.m., March 24, at John Carroll High School in Bel Air.

Hammering out a finely-tuned performance

By Sheila Little
APG News

Symphony goers can expect a "wrenching" performance at the 7 p.m. concert planned by the Susquehanna Symphony at John Carroll High School on March 24. That is because wrenches from the tank maintenance shop of the U. S. Army Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground play a key role in one of the musical selections.

Sheldon Bair, director of the Susquehanna Symphony, explained that tools found more frequently in a tank maintenance shop will make the transition to the stage Saturday, supplying sound for a portion of the evening's performance. Selections for the evening include a piece by Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich, Symphony No.11, which calls for loud chimes or bells.

The sounds emitted by the local orchestra's percussion section were not what Bair was looking for. "Our bells or chimes are never loud enough," he said.

Familiar with another orchestra's performance of the piece, the musical director considered renting large bells and striking them with a hammer, as the other orchestra had done, but opted to continue the search for a substitute involving less expense.

Asking others familiar with the requirements of the Shostakovich piece, a percussionist from Alexandria, Va., suggested using a hammer to strike over-sized wrenches.

Considering the source, Bair wasn't too surprised with the suggestion.

"I once heard him play a wrench harp, so I was familiar with the sound, and knew it was loud enough," Bair said.

His next task was to find large wrenches capable of emitting the pitches required for the musical piece.

A few inquiries led to APG, and after speaking with Kerry North, test director for ATC's Automotive Core, a trip to ATC was planned.

"I looked around and talked to some of the mechanics," North said. "I thought we could help the orchestra without affecting our work at the test center."

North said he determined that the wrenches Bair was interested in were not ones currently in use at ATC, so after getting the okay from his supervisors, a meeting with the orchestra director took place.

Bair arrived at the test center armed with an electronic tuning fork, and prepared to test wrenches.

"He stood out in the parking lot and 'played' the wrenches, striking each wrench suspended from a belt, until he found the wrenches with the best tone quality and pitch," North said.

The test director added that loaning the wrenches to the community orchestra, whose membership

includes a number of ATC workers and other APG employees from the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, was not a problem, and was considered just a little something the installation could do to help the community.

"The government here at APG wants to help the public, and we thought this would be a nice thing to do," North said.

Bob Aaserude, a health physicist with the U. S. Army Developmental Test Command, is one of the original members of the orchestra and has worked on APG for 35 years. He described the orchestra director as "resourceful" in pursuing the unusual choice of musical instrument, and appreciated the show of willingness on the part of the proving ground, and the community cooperation displayed between the orchestra and the installation.

"It shows that APG appreciates the contributions of the orchestra and its membership, and is willing to support beneficial community endeavors," he said.

Maj. Tamra Barker, a physician and epidemiologist for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, has been with the symphony group since last fall. Arriving at APG last summer, the violinist said she tries to find a community orchestra wherever she is stationed.

"I'm pleased that APG is willing to help the community orchestra with these unique 'musical instruments,'" Barker said. "This cooperation between a military installation and its neighboring community illustrates that there are unique and unusual resources related to the military's many missions which can be beneficial to a neighboring civilian organization's mission," she said.

Tim Byrnes, a member of the information technology team at ATC, has been a member of the local symphony orchestra since it was first organized, over 20 years ago. He said the musicians, who rehearse for two hours each Tuesday evening, perform in at least four concerts each year, and also include two outdoor performances on their schedule.

Other members of the community orchestra with APG connections include Michael DeZearn, a civilian employee with the U. S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, who plays the French horn, and Heather Hilton, an ATC industrial hygienist and violinist for the orchestra.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at John Carroll High School in Bel Air. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a discounted price through Preston's Stationery, 410-838-5858, Musicland, 410-838-2079, Music and Arts Center, 410-569-3500, or at the door on the night of the performance.

ACS plans help with 'money matters'

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Credit cards.
Investments.
Interest rates.
Loans.

Money matters can be a confusing maze to an experienced consumer and even worse for those new to managing their own finances.

Finances can weigh heavily on military lifestyles and careers especially when errors in judgment produce indebtedness and garnishments. Because of this, Aberdeen Proving Ground's Army Community Service has several programs in the works to help soldiers, family members, retirees and civilians get control of their money matters.

Tricia Jewitt, a financial assistance program manager with Army Community Service, heads the ACS financial planning project. Jewitt planned a series of sessions focusing on providing the basic tools for balancing checkbooks and savings accounts, managing credit cards, deciphering interest charges, and making informed decisions about savings and investments.

"Our goal is to attract people for remedial budget counseling," Jewitt said. "The concen-



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Tricia Jewitt, financial assistance program manager with Army Community Service.

tration will be on establishing proactive steps with goal-setting formats for the future."

The sessions will be educational but not flat formatted, with interactive work groups, she added.

"One approach for planning and budgeting is to first have participants use a 'dream sheet' to plot their long and short term goals," Jewitt said. "That way, when we begin budgeting, they will know how to achieve those goals."

Acknowledging that classes of this kind often are perceived as being for those with financial problems, Jewitt said solving problems is not the focus.

"Although service members can be referred to us by unit commanders, we emphasize that people also can

come to us before there is a problem," she said.

"Even those with no problems have trouble reaching their goals without the proper information and focus."

The sessions, titled "Wealth Building Series," run once a week for five weeks beginning March 28.

All sessions will be held in ACS buildings 2752 or 2754, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sessions currently planned include Planning and Budgeting, March 28; Banking and Checking, April 4; Using Credit Wisely, April 11; Savings and Investing, April 18 and Retirement Planning, April 25.

At the conclusion, the series begins again in May.

Noting that the service is free and open to active-duty

service members and their family members, retirees and civilian employees on APG, Jewitt said the greatest advantage is that participants can become more confident, self-sufficient and goal-oriented when the sessions end.

"They can be more in control of their money instead of letting their money control them."

Mandatory training for first-termers

ACS also is instituting Financial Readiness Training for First Term Soldiers in accordance with directive established by the Department of Defense in Army Regulation 608-1 which governs the specifics of course administration and requirements.

Jewitt said the regulation requires service members at their first duty

assignment undergo eight hours of training focused on principles of personal finance, budgeting, checking accounts, credit cards, insurance, savings and investing.

The first class for APG service members is scheduled for April 17, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in building 2752. Subsequent monthly classes will be held May 22, June 19 and July 17.

"The classes are mandatory for first-termers but we won't turn away any service members who want to participate," Jewitt said.

"They will learn that it's not how much you make, it's how much you save that makes the difference."

Some learning tools at their disposal will include a sliding scale of investment yields over time and documented results of a \$2,000 mutual fund investment over 20 years.

Like the Wealth Building Series, service members will discuss smart choices and bad decisions, Jewitt said.

She encourages commanders to contact her for unit-size or one-on-one training.

"I can come to you. Just give me a call," Jewitt said.

AEC rewards employees

Colonel Stanley H. Lillie, commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, presented the following awards to AEC staff members at a February Town Hall Meeting.

An Achievement Medal for Civilian Service was presented to Janmichael Graine, Environmental Quality Division, for his role in coordinating, developing and constructing the USAEC gazebo and Bayscapes garden. Graine worked extensively with members of the local community and Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel in bringing these efforts to fruition.

Length of service awards were presented to Wayne Sisk for 35 years, Thomas Migdalski and Joseph Murphy for 25 years, Mary Kaye Hopkins and Margaret Spencer for 20 years.

Three Environmental Quality Division employees received promotions to GS-13, Misha Turner, environmental engi-

neer, Pamela Klinger, physical scientist and Billy Ray Scott, environmental protection specialist.

Mark Bovelsky, Hank Pabst, Durant Graves, Jim Briggs, and Scott Sweetser received a letter from the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management commending them for major improvements in the Army's environmental quality report software.

Jeannie Skillman, Javier Hernandez, and Cynthia Houston were recognized for their work on AEC's "Go Army, Beat Navy" Spirit Spot which was selected to be shown during the 2000 Army-Navy football game.

Lt. Col. Tom Frendak and Tom Guinivan were recognized for their dedicated effort in coordinating AEC's reorganization effort.



Photo by JEANNIE SKILLMAN, AEC PAO

Aberdeen High School students participate in Engineer for a Day program

U.S. Army Environmental Center's environmental engineer George Robitaille discusses a gas chromatograph with Daniel Ewald, Aberdeen High School senior. Ewald spent most of the day with Robitaille learning what it is like to be an engineer. AEC's Engineer for a Day program matches Harford County high school students with an interest in becoming an engineer with current engineers from AEC so they may gain insight into the field. Other high school participants include Megan Mahoney, Amy Griger and Linsay Riley (not pictured).

HHC 61st downs Company C 143rd, 104-80, wins championship in highest scoring game of season

PHOTOS BY YVONNE JOHNSON

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

They had the two best records in intramural basketball at 14-1. Both teams finished on top of their divisions.

Little wonder the two teams should meet in the deciding game for the post championship.

In a scoring triumph, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade handled Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion 104-80 to emerge as APG's 2001 Intramural Basketball champion.

Play began fast and furious in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center.

HHC 61st's Terrence Upperman broke the ice with an uncontested layup off the jump ball. Company C 143rd's Michael Bennett responded seconds later with a "nothing-but-net" three pointer and the race was on.

A jumper by Terrell Hewitt, who netted 15 points in the game, followed by a nasty steal by Donald Thompson, who finished with a game-high 36 points, got HHC 61st started on what would become 8-3, 11-5 and 29-18 leads by the time the half was down to 12 minutes.

Ulysses Thomas, HHC 61st second highest scorer with 26 points, turned into a fearless "drive, stop and shoot" machine, muscling his way in for points when he wasn't dishing the ball off to Thompson, Hewitt, or Upperman.

With seven minutes left, Company C 143rd seemed to have lost a step while HHC 61st remained pumped up, arguing every foul and challenging every possession.

Repeated fouls put Company C deep in the hurt locker as HHC 61st pulled away to a 35-18 lead with less than 5:14 left on the clock.

A scoring spurt, led by Company C 143rd's Vince Davidson, who scored nine of his 24 points in the first half, put the team closer. Michael Bennet and Joey Jenkins were the only other Company C 143rd players in double figures with 20 points and 11 points respectively.

HHC 61st led at the break, 45-28.

During halftime, Bennett said the team, hurting with the loss of key players due to rotations, had to keep running.

"We've got to be a little more physical and keep running with them or they'll run away," Bennett said.

HHC 61st coach Brian Copeland said defensive pressure was the main strategy for the second half.

"We need a good man-to-man defense, control the fouls and dominate on offense," Copeland said.

And that was the main difference in the game. Both teams had

plenty of heart and hustle but HHC 61st shots just seemed to fall easier. They were more patient, opting for high percentage shots while more and more of Company C 143rd shots had the look of desperation. Patience and desire won that game; nothing less.

After the game, Bennett took comfort in the teams overall 17-3 record.

"We're in the running every year," the first sergeant player-coach said.

"I told them to keep at them, even if you left everything on the floor."

Adding that his young warriors did well, regardless, Bennett said after two seasons this would probably be his last.

"I love it, but my legs can't take it anymore," Bennett said.

A jubilant HHC 61st team cheered their commander, Capt. James Bushnell, as he accepted the championship trophy from Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG garrison and deputy installation commander.

Thompson said the team was already looking forward to next year.

"We don't get tired and everybody has a pretty good feel for each others abilities," Thompson said. "One knows what the other will do once they get the ball. That's tough to beat."

"This is something we can all look back on with pride," said HHC 61st 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Averett, who's only basket near the game's end got a roar of approval from the HHC 61st faithful.

The game's high scorers HHC 61st, Thompson 36, Thomas 26, Hewitt 15, Upperman 10, Cole 9, Glynn 4, Averett 2, Pennyamon 2

Company C 143rd, Davidson 24, Bennett 20, Jenkins 11, Howard 9, Kind 9, Edgeston 7



The 2001 Intramural Basketball champions — Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade. From left, front, Brian Cole, Averille Dansby and Terrence Upperman. Rear, Sgt. 1st Class Brian Copeland, coach, Donald Thompson, Angelo Pennyamon, Brian Glynn, Ulysses Thomas, Terrell Hewitt, Jeffery Averett and Capt. James Bushnell, company commander. Below, Donald Thompson and Angelo Pennyamon, 14, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade, double-up on Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion's Vince Davidson, 5, as he drives through the lane. Davidson scored a team high 24 points in his team's 104-80 loss.

Basketball Update

The following was presented during the Intramural Basketball awards ceremony

Division Winners

Edgewood runner up; HHC 143rd
Edgewood champion; Company C 143rd
Aberdeen runner up; USMC
Aberdeen champion; HHC 61st

Post Championship

Winner; HHC 61st
Runner up; Company C 143rd

3-Point Contest

1st place, Averille Dansby
Company A 143rd
2nd place, Tony Caver, HHC 16th



Where'd it go?

In a prelude to a mad scramble for a loose ball, Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion and HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade players share a moment of confusion. From left, Joey Jenkins, 15; Virge Edgeston, 32; Terrence Upperman, 42; Michael Bennet, 53 and Donald Thompson, 23.



Company C 143rd Ordnance Battalion's Bertrand Howard, 00, attempts to drive around HHC 61st Ordnance Brigade defenders Brian Cole, 52, and Donald Thompson, 23.



Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, 2001 Intramural Basketball runners-ups pose with their tournament trophies. From left kneeling, Joey Jenkins, Joey Boyd, Marcus Velasquez and Virge Edgeston. Rear standing, Bertrand Howard, William Lee, Michael Bennett, Vince Davidson, Renaldo Kind and Emmanuel Sambula.

